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February 28, 2012

BY ECF

Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Court Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: *United States v. Russo, et al.*
11-Cr-0030
Request to Have Client's Appearance Excused

Dear Judge Matsumoto:

I represent the defendant, Andrew Russo in connection with the above referenced matter. The case is currently scheduled for a status conference tomorrow afternoon at 4:30 p.m. I write to respectfully request that Mr. Russo's appearance be waived tomorrow. He is currently being treated for a myriad of physical ailments including stage three kidney disease and as of last night was in considerable pain. While I will certainly be present tomorrow, Mr. Russo asked me to endeavor to have his presence excused.

I have spoken to Assistant United States Attorney, Elizabeth Geddes and she has graciously consented to this request. Thanking you for your courtesy and consideration, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

George W. Galgano